



Earth Jurisprudence Update

Earth-centred News and Inspiration

Greetings all,

As crises compound at a catastrophic scale, it's clear that our dominant, anthropocentric systems are unpicking, thread by thread, not only the social fabric but the very fabric of life. This month's update offers pathways and perspectives that seek to reweave the Earth community and reorient governance systems so that they are aligned with the ecosystems in which they are embedded.

Explore visions of Earth-centred futures, conversations that catalyse a wild love for the world, discussions on decolonisation and degrowth, practices to root in place and much more. In the words of Wendell Berry, "Nature is not only our source, but also our limit and measure".

With warm, wild wishes,

Carlotta, on behalf of the Gaia Team

Earth-centred Futures

Earth Laws Month September 2022

The Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) is hosting a fabulous series of events throughout September – webinars, public lectures, workshops, virtual art exhibitions and more – to explore and celebrate our relationship with the living world. Gaia's Carlotta Byrne will join AELA'S Michelle Maloney and Margaret Stewart from the Center for Earth Jurisprudence for the session *Earth Jurisprudence in Practice* on Thursday 15th September. Other talks include *Post Extractivism: What could life look like beyond the extractive economy?*, *What would it take to build an Earth-centred Economy?*, *Making Ecocide a Crime: International Update* and *What can we learn from Deep Listening to the natural world?* The full programme can be found [here](#).



EARTH JURISPRUDENCE IN PRACTICE

with Carlotta Byrne, GAIA FOUNDATION (UK); Michelle Maloney (AELA)
and Margaret Stewart, CENTER FOR EARTH JURISPRUDENCE (USA)



**EARTH LAWS
MONTH**
SEPTEMBER 2022

**THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER
6PM TO 7.30PM AEST**
www.earthlaws.org.au/elm2022

Practices to Deepen Intimacy with the Earth

Sensing Place

Launched last month, *Lifeworlds* podcast series is guided by Nature and includes conversations with farmers, lawyers and indigenous scholars as well as bonus episodes offering embodied exercises to restore relationship with our living world. In this 'Sensing Place' practice, Alexa Firmenich invites us to fine tune our skills of observation through place-based explorations prompted by a series of questions about our local landscapes. "Rootedness in a place is the most important and least recognized need of the human soul", said Simone Weil. Let's start rooting."



Photo by Ellis Garvey on Unsplash

Playful Listening

David Haskell leads us on a sonic immersion into the web of life in this latest practice published by Emergence Magazine. “For billions of years, Earth’s voice was of wind, water, and stone. We can experience this ancient sound world today. Seek out places where the human hubbub is faint and the voices of other creatures are muted. The sounds of rain or wind gusts in vegetation are more ancient than any animal song. As water laps its shores, the sounds are older yet, predating all life.”

A Wild Love for the World

Podcast Collection Curated by the On Being Project

The On Being Project’s ‘A Wild Love for the World’ collection includes podcast discussions, meditations and poems with and from leading ecological thinkers of our time. *The Natural World, Joy, and Human Becoming* is a 2-minute animation inspired by excerpts from On Being episodes with J. Drew Lanham, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Katy Payne and Robert Macfarlane.

Gaia Theory

Honoring the Life of James Lovelock, Founder of the Gaia Theory

James Lovelock’s paradigm-shifting work on the Gaia Theory has been deeply inspirational for The Gaia Foundation and so many others. In this essay, Fred Hageneder pays tribute to the renegade and visionary scientist who passed on this late July at the age of 103. “Lovelock was a remarkable chemist, physician and biophysicist whose work has led to the acknowledgement of Earth’s ecosphere as the complex inter-connected system that it is... We all owe Lovelock a great deal and his legacy is of utmost importance now and in the coming years in the fight against climate disruption, species extinction and biodiversity loss.”

Earth Jurisprudence & the Rights of Nature

An Introduction to Earth Jurisprudence and Rights of Nature

Last week, the African hub of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) hosted a webinar with professor Ngozi Unuigbo of the University of Benin in Nigeria, South African lawyer and *Wild Law* author Cormac Cullinan and GARN’s Natalia Greene. “As the African Hub of GARN, we work to promote the universal adoption and implementation of governance and cultural systems that recognise, respect and enforce the rights of Nature, particularly on the African continent.”

The Rights of Peatlands

In its third year, Peat-Fest offers a digital community space to come together to celebrate and co-create action for peatlands. Running from 30th August to 4th September, this year’s festival program of online events will cover the history, philosophy and implementation of the Rights of Nature, internal and external decolonisation and how to manifest future actions. The Festival will be the launchpad for a Rights of Peatlands campaign.

Conservation

How to Decolonize Conservation

Erica Gies summarises a new paper *Decolonial Model of Environmental Management and Conservation: Insights from Indigenous-led Grizzly Bear Stewardship in the Great Bear Rainforest*. Principles for decolonisation include a focus on the whole ecosystem rather than a single species in isolation, centering place-based stewardship in local communities and respecting all knowledge sources - not only Western science - as legitimate. “The smaller, more intimate scale of Indigenous management efforts...allows closer observation of the landscape. In a decolonized approach to conservation, the observations of people living in the area would be given proper respect, and systems would be in place to incorporate those observations into models.”

Ecological Economics

Degrowth

Two news books on degrowth have recently been released. *The Future Is Degrowth: A Guide to a World beyond Capitalism* “provides a vision for postcapitalism beyond growth... Degrowth perspectives offer a way to step off the treadmill of an alienating, expansionist, and hierarchical system.” *Degrowth & Strategy: how to bring about social-ecological transformation* asks how we can transform society towards social and ecological justice and “explores what strategising means, identifies key directions for the degrowth movement, and scrutinises strategies in practice that aim to realise a degrowth society.” For those who prefer podcasts to books, *Upstream* recently released a conversation with Jason Hickel, *How Degrowth Will Save the World*.